

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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TOKYO CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS HOLD FIRST JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

"In order to have real dialogue with our fellow Christians, we must have unlimited trust, open minds and open hearts," said Roman Catholic Bishop Nagae at the Ecumenical Worship Service held in Tokyo on Wednesday, January 18, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Two hundred persons attended the service at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, the first such service to be sponsored jointly by the National Christian Council of Japan and the Japan Catholic Church.

Dr. Chuzo Yamada, General Secretary of the NCCJ, conducted the service. Bishop Nagae of Urawa Diocese of the Japan Catholic Church, recalled events of the past Second Vatican Council meetings which created the climate for joint meeting with Protestants.

"I am convinced, " said Bishop Nagae in his message to the ecumenical gathering, "that what has divided us in the past is much less than what is bringing us together today." He went on to acknowledge that "The dividedness of our witness in Christ has certainly been a stumbling block to many and definitely against the Holy Will."

NCCJ Chairman, Dr. Chitose Kishi, called on Christians to take the risk of faith, as Abraham did, to go forth into new ventures." He cited this first joint worship service between Protestants and Roman Catholics in the Tokyo area as such a venture, "leading we know not where."

CONSULTATION ON MISSION IN UNITY INVITES FOREIGN CHURCHMEN

Delegates and observers from six countries have been invited to the Consultation on Mission in Unity being sponsored by the National Christian Council of Japan March 6 - 9, 1967 at the YMCA Tozanso, Gotemba.

"This is the Ecumenical Age," said Dr. Chuzo Yamada, NCCJ General Secretary. "The purpose of our search for unity is 'that the world may believe' (John 17). In this consultation we will be seeking concrete ways in which the churches in Japan can cooperate in mission. It is also important for us to have dialogue with churches with which we have had historic relations as to how we can better work as partners in Joint Action for Mission."

Delegates will include representatives from the various NCCJ members, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Anglican, Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, the Japan Baptist Convention, the Japan Baptist Union, the Korean Christian Church in Japan, and associate members.

Foreign participants include representatives of mission boards and societies from Germany, Australia, England, Canada, Finland, and the United States which maintain working relationships with NCCJ member churches. Non-NCCJ member churches such as Nippon Kirisuto Kyokai, Salvation Army, Japan Evangelical Federation, Missouri Lutheran, Mennonite and The Japan Catholic Church are sending observers to this consultation.

Lecturers at the Consultation will include Prof. Kazo Kitamori, theologian, Tokyo Union Seminary, Dr. Masao Takenaka, Doshisha Theological Seminary, Prof. Doi, NCC Center for the Study of Japanese Religions, Kyoto, Dr. Charles Germany, Executive Secretary, Japan and Philippines, Methodist Board of Missions, and Rev. Masahisa Suzuki, Moderator of the United Church of Christ in Japan.

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL CONSULTATION TO STUDY OLD TESTAMENT

The 11th Annual Reformed Theological Conference will be held February 14-15 at the Osaka Christian Center. Theme of the Conference is "The Role of the Old Testament in The Christian Faith." Lecturers will be Dr. John Barksdale, Rev. John Timmer and Miss Mary McCrimmon.

The Conference, although Reformed in origin, is open to people of all denominations. The meetings, which begin at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 14, will run through 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 15. Registration fee of ¥1,000 may be sent to Rev. Russell Norden, 37-B Yamate-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama-shi, or paid at the conference. Chairman for the Conference is Rev. Harvey Smit.

SEMINARY STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM LACOUR FUND

A balance of ¥229,132 (\$640) in the Lacour Invitation Fund, contributed by Japanese Christians to make possible the return visit of Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Lacour to Japan in the fall of 1966, will go for scholarships for seminary students at Japan Biblical Seminary, and Tsurukawa Rural Institute, according to the recent decision of the Central Committee, Dr. Isamu Omura, chairman. The fund totalled ¥1,602,921 (\$4,500).

WORK ON SOUTH EAST ASIA RADIO "VOICE" PROGRESSES

(EACC)--Installation of a new transmitter in Manila, Philippines, for the South East Asia Radio Voice (SEARV) represents another step in plans to reach the people of Asia through mass communications. SEARV, an independent radio station which will be related to the Broadcasting and Audio-Visual Aids Committee of the East Asia Christian Council, will be used to broadcast the Gospel message to peoples of Asia and to make shortwave facilities available to National Christian Councils of Asia and related agencies. Six nations now have SEARV-related studios, although the center for transmitting will be in Manila.

OSAKA GROUP SEEKS HOW TO BE HUMAN IN INDUSTRIALIZING SOCIETY

A group of Osaka Christians, increasingly concerned with how one can live and act as a human being in a rapidly industrializing society, has formed the Christian Laborers' Council. At the organizational meeting, held at Tenma Church of the United Church of Christ in Japan, on Sunday, January 15, Dr. Masao Takenaka spoke on "The Duty of Christians in the Industrializing Society." Headquarters for the Council are c/o Rev. Satoshi Hirata, 13-1, 2-chome, Oshima Machi, Toyonaka Shi, Osaka, Japan.

SOUTH EAST ASIAN DOCTORS AND NURSES WILL STUDY MEDICAL MISSION TODAY

Christian medical personnel from many Asian countries will attend the South East Asia Medical Consultation to be held in Japan, April 27-May 1. The Japan Christian Medical Association is host organization for the conference, which is sponsored by the East Asia Christian Council, with cooperation of the National Christian Council of Japan.

Under the theme, "Christian Presence through Medical Work in Asia Today," the delegates and invited guests will review present medical programs sponsored by churches, mission boards and Christian medical associations and attempt to develop a strategy for "medical mission" today.

Dr. Akira Sato is secretary of the JCMA planning committee for the Consultation, and Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara, chairman of the JCMA, preparatory committee.

A post-conference tour of medical institutions, and facilities for public health, maternity hygiene, TB and cancer research etc. will be arranged for those who stay in Japan after the consultation closes.

DR. HOWARD SCHOMER, DIRECTOR OF DEPT. OF SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE NCCC USA, VISITS NCCJ

From January 29 through February 7, Dr. Howard Schomer, with his wife and daughter (Ellen) visited the NCCJ in Japan. Dr. Schomer is the former President of Chicago Theological Seminary and now is serving as the Director of the Department of Specialized Ministries of the NCCC USA.

During his visit Dr. Schomer was able to have meetings with representatives of various Christian groups concerned with the problem of Peace and the War in Vietnam such as: The International Affairs Committee of the NCCJ, the Christian Peace Committee, The Christian Peace Delegation to America, The Nippon Christian Academy, and the Japan FOR. Professor Iizaka of the Gakushuin University and Secretary of the NCCJ International Affairs Committee did most of the translation for Dr. Schomer, including the final "open" meeting attended by some 40 persons at the Ginza Church.

Many things could be said about the scholarly presentation which Dr. Schomer made concerning not only the Vietnam Issue but also the broader issue of "Peace-making". Suffice it to say that he urged the Japanese Christians who are concerned to be Peacemakers (not Peacelovers) to weigh the facts "measure by Measure" on both sides of this complicated issue. Dr. Schomer himself has been to Vietnam twice in the past 18 months; he has seen and heard, first-hand, from the people there. He strongly urges the Japanese Christians who are concerned for the things that make for peace to send some responsible people as a team to both South and North Vietnam to see and hear for themselves in order that they might help the Church in Japan formulate some positive plan for action for Peace in Vietnam. Dr. Schomer reiterated the NCCC USA stand on the immediate cessation of the Bombing of the North and suggested the possible settlement of the Vietnam issue by the establishment of an Asian Police Force.

DR. E. STANLEY JONES CONDUCTS HIS 9TH EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN IN JAPAN

Dr. E. Stanley Jones, world-famed Methodist Evangelist, who spent many years as a missionary in India, arrived in Japan to conduct his 9th series of Ashrams and Evangelistic meetings in Japan since 1949. Dr. Jones, out of his genuine love and concern for the people of Japan, has one goal: to help strengthen the spiritual and moral life of Japan in order that it might be able to play its necessary role in Asia and the rest of the world. Dr. Jones constantly emphasizes the need for lay training and Lay witness in Society. It was through his inspiring leadership and instruction in the methods and implications of Lay Visitation Evangelism that the Japan program of Visitation Evangelism was begun.

Not only in the field of Visitation Evangelism but also in the Prayer-Life movement, Dr. Jones has made a great contribution to the churches in Japan. As a result of this the "Inori no Tome" (The Prayer Companion) has become a regular publication of the NCCJ.

Dr. Jones is now 83 years of age; he will be assisted in the Ashrams and evangelistic meetings by Rev. Don Saylor, Lutheran chaplain at the Ohio State University Chapel. Dr. Jones will be conducting these Ashrams and meetings throughout all of Japan with the help of the interpreters, Professor Shuichi Ozaki, of Seinan Gakuin (known for his work as Billy Graham interpreter); Prof. Boko Tsuchiyama of Kunei Junior Callage and Dr. Saburo Yasumura (well-known Stanley Jones' interpreter). On February 7, with Dr. Saburo Yasumura as his interpreter, he spoke to a congregation of 1,000 people on the subject: "The Church as Mission", emphasizing the need for the People of God to enter into the Total Society as a Reconciling Force.